VOL. I. APRIL, 1887. No. 4.

THE

Halifax Philatelist.

PUBLISHED BY

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The Halifax Philatelist.

VOL. I. HALIFAX, N. S., APRIL, 1887. No. 4.

WATERMARKS.

BY HENRY HECHLER.

Queensland.—Issued its first stamps in 1861. They were imperforate and bore a large star as a watermark. They vary in value from 2s 6d. to 5s. Those of 1862 were perforate but retained the watermark of their predecessors. Their value decreases as the latter are worth only 9d. to 2s. The issue of 1863 is perforate but has no watermark. Their value is merely nominal. The 1868 issue has a watermark of a small star. That of the following year has as a watermark q and a crown which watermark has ever since been retained.

Russia issued her first postage stamps in 1857. The 10 copies imperforate of this issue without watermark is valued at $1. The same having a large figure 1 as a watermark is valued at $1.50, and if perforate at 60 cents.

St. Christopher.—In 1870 the first issue appeared with a watermark of C C and a crown, which was superceded in 1882 by C A and a crown.

St. Helena.—The first issue was in 1856, and only comprised a 6d. imperforate with watermark of a star. This is valued at 50c. to $1. The same also exists perforate, and is extremely rare. In 1863 two values 1d. and 4d. were added to the imperforate series with C C and a crown for a watermark. These are very rare. Towards the end of the same year an entire new series—from 1d. to 5s.—was introduced. They were perforate and bore the watermark C C and a crown. In 1884 the ½d. was added, and the entire series then appeared with the watermark C A and a crown.

St. Lucia's first stamps appeared in 1859, and were watermarked with a star. These are extremely rare. In 1863 the watermark was changed to C C and a crown. Eleven years later (1884) this was succeeded by C A and a crown.

St. Thomas, (D. W. I.)—In 1856 the stamps of the Danish Kingdom were introduced for use in this Colony, the only difference being that the value was expressed by the word "cents" instead of "skillings," as in the mother country. They appear both perforate and imperforate, and have a large crown as a watermark. In 1874 the Colony followed Denmark in changing her stamps, and the new ones had a smaller crown watermark.

St. Vincent.—The first issue (1871) had no watermark. Ten years after, a watermark of a star was adopted. In 1883 this was changed to C A and a crown. When the ½d. was introduced in 1882 it had a star as a watermark. This stamp is now becoming quite rare.

Sierra Leone.—In 1861 the first issue appeared and consisted of a 6d. only, which was both perforate and imperfor-

ate but had no watermark. The latter is very rare, as is also the 6d. of 1876 which is perforate and has watermark of C C and a crown. In 1872 an entire series bearing the watermark last named was adopted. In 1883 the watermark changed to C A and a crown.

South Australia.—The first series appeared in 1855. It was imperforate and bore a star watermark. Their values range from 36c. to $1. In 1859 the stamps rouletted, but the watermark was unchanged. In 1868 the series was made perforate but the old watermark was still retained. In 1871 the watermark of S A and a crown was adopted. We have seen some of the values with the watermark V and a crown, these are remarkably rare, and command very high prices.

Spain.—Like her colonies, the stamps of this country in 1855 bore loops as a watermark and in 1856 lozenges. In 1857 the stamps were of the same design as their predecessors, but they bore no watermark. The 1876 series bore the watermark of a castle. These three are the only series of that kingdom which have watermarks.

Strait Settlements.—The first issue was a provisional one. It appeared in 1867 and bore no watermark. It commands good prices. In 1868 a regular issue with the watermark C C and a crown came into use. The watermark was changed to C A and a crown in 1882. The 5c., plum, and the 10c., lavender, which were new values appeared, added to the series in 1882 just before the change and with each of the last two watermarks named. Those with C C and a crown are very rare and command good prices.

(To be continued.)

THE STAMPS OF NOVA SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK AND P. E. ISLAND.

BY C. F.

Continued.

Stamps appeared in New Brunswick in the same year (1857) as in Nova Scotia, and were exactly of the same design. They consisted, however, of only three values, viz.:

3d. brick red,
6d. yellow,
1s. violet,

They remained in vogue until 1860, when they were also replaced by a new set having the values in cents. Five at first were issued,

1 cent lilac,
5 cents green,
10 " vermillion,
12½ " blue,
17 " black,

but in 1863 a 2 cent orange was added to the set.

The one and twelve and half cents are mostly the same in design, both being oblong, and are printed in color on white paper. The 1 cent has a locomotive and the 12½ has a steamship in transverse oval band, on which the inscription *New Brunswick Postage* and value in letters appear, small figures in the upper corners and large figures in the lower ones, and at foot a curved label containing the word *cents*. The one cent is sometimes found of a purplish shade.

The 2 cents has a crowned portrait of Queen in oval band with inscribed legend, figure of value in the four corners in small ovals in ornamental frame. The 5 and 10 cents are similar, except that

they have a frame of net work, the figures of value in the upper corners are smaller and in slanting ovals, and the word cents in label at foot. The 10 cent differs slightly in having Roman numerals in the upper corners, and in the lower in both Roman and figures. There are several shades of the 5 cent green.

The 17 cent is adorned with a potrait of the Prince of Wales in Highland costume, value in figures in ovals at the four corners. In other respects it is the same as the 5 cent. The same design was used in Newfoundland for the one cent of the 1866 issue.

In 1861 the Connell stamp was issued, which has now become one of the rarest of North American stamps. Its history is well known and is in substance this. The supply of the 5 cent running short, it was necessary to send to England to obtain a grant for the printing of more, during the delay which followed, the demand for the 5 cent became greater and greater; Mr. Connell, the then postmaster, conceived the idea of having his own likeness put on the 5 cent, and sent to the U. S. and ordered a supply to be printed. The regular issue of the 5 cent however came to hand about the same time as the ones ordered from the States, and the Government disapproving of Mr. Connell's action, the 5c. was cancelled and all the sheets destroyed, a small number, however, did pass through the post, a few of which are in the hands of some of the old collectors in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The design is mostly the same as the regular 5 cent, except that the figure 5 is repeated twice in each corner at the bottom. Its color is chocolate.

This issue continued to be used until the formation of the Dominion of Canada, when they made way for the regular issue of the Dominion.

S. P. M.

BY THEO. LARSEN.

Continued.

One would imagine that the number of stamps surcharged would have satisfied the demands of all concerned, but as will be seen before we have done, quite a surprise was in store for us. If we remember rightly it was about this time that something unusual in the way of provisional or surcharged stamps was resorted to. It appears the supply ran short once more, and for some little time the only mode of prepaying a letter, was, to hand it to the post office official in charge, whereupon he slipped the letter into an envelope which had already been prepaired for that purpose. The preparation of said envelope consisted of a small square piece of white paper with P. D. and the value printed upon it, to meet the requirement thus: $\frac{P}{5}\frac{D}{}$. We do not know what to call these pieces of paper, postage stamps they were not, neither were they stamped envelopes, but one thing we may say and that is, that they may be recognized as an attempt to encourage home manufacture. There were 100 of each of the three respective values manufactured, viz.; 5, 10, 15 centimes, and as they were not sold out of the post office but were used in the manner above mentioned it is needless to say that they are valueless in a collection except when secured as an entire envelope, postmarked, thus showing that they have passed through the mail in

proper form, and have served as a legal tender for the prepaying of mail matter. In order to give our friends an idea of the value of such a specimen we may say that they command the price of $20.00 each. We have not been able to find out the exact reason why this mode of tiding over the difficulty was resorted to, unless they had a lot of these small square pieces of paper cut and did not like to see them wasted, but likely they had a better reason for doing so, a deeper reason, in fact too deep a reason for our conception. We will now pass on to the next lot of regular surcharged stamps. In the middle of December in the same year there appeared a new lot. The stamps surcharged being the 1 Franc of the regular issue and the surcharge being 05. This lot consisted of 13,500 according to official figures, and although they are among the commonest of the S. P. M. surcharges, the market is quite firm in this variety and command a ready sale at a high price.

(To be continued.)

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The Halifax Philatelist.

Published Monthly.

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VOL. 1 APRIL, 1887. No. 4.

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AGENTS.

G. H. Richmond, 5 Beekam St., N. Y.
H. H. Carvell, Moncton, N. B.
J. A. Craig, Yarmouth, N. S.

As each number of our paper has appeared we have endeavoured to improve it, and if we can draw any conclusions from the numerous flattering epistles that we have received within the last month, we must say that our efforts have been appreciated. One thing you may always be sure of receiving at our hands, and that is, plenty of *original* reading matter, for we know that it is that collectors want. No one cares to subscribe to three or four journals and find a great many of the same articles in each. One of the chief reasons why collectors do not give their support to a great many of the philatelic papers published, is because they have to much reprinted matter in them. We always therefore intend to secure able writers, who can and will give us good original articles.

This will be a benefit to advertisers as well as to collectors, for is it not better to have an advertisement in a paper that will be read all through, than in one that is merely opened, and when seen to contain a lot of reprinted news, is lain aside.

"Shall we collect used or unused stamps," is the question asked by a great many collectors of the present day, and it is by no means an easy one to answer. If however we were called upon to give our opinion we would say: Collect both so far as you are able, that is, obtain one of each if possible, then you will be better able to guard against fraud. We know some collectors who collect only unused specimens, and although their collections look very nice and clean, a great many forgeries could be pointed out to them, for as we all know the majority of bogus stamps are unused, and some are so cleverly executed, that if it were not for the watermarks or other fine points about the genuine that cannot be imitated, they would cheat even advanced philatelists. Now the only way to distinguish them is by putting them side by side and comparing them minutely, and if you only collect one kind, either used or unused, you will not likely do this, and numbers of the genuine ones may pass through your hands, while all the time you may have a forgery in your album.

Another thing we would like to impress on young collectors, is, never to discard a used specimen for an unused one, as by so doing, in a great many instances, a good genuine used one will be taken out of an album to make room for a fraud, which only looks the better on account of being unused.

Study your stamps and you will daily

pick up information concerning them, that cannot be gained in any other way, and there is no better way to study them than by taking the used and unused specimens and comparing them together.

We notice in *The New York Sunday World* of March 13th, an article entitled "Postage Stamp Swindle" in which it shows how a dealer in Stettin, Germany, (name not given) got people in all parts of the world to collect stamps for him, and send them to him free. The *modus operandi* as given in the article was this—He sent out circulars all over the world stating that for every 1,000,000 stamps sent him, he would board, clothe and educate an orphan until old enough to support itself; his brother being in league with him would of course supply the orphan, but as *The World* puts it—in his mind.

By this method he would obtain hundreds of thousands of stamps daily, and thus he is able to under sell all other dealers. The article also goes on to state that about 5 years ago he started an imaginary mission in the city of Chang Kiang, China, the Holy Sisters of which agreed, for every million stamps sent to him to save from the jaws of the crocodiles of the Yellow River at least one Chinese baby, and that they would support, educate and christianize it. Finding that to work so well, he has since issued circulars stating that for 1,000,000 stamps a home will be found for an old lady or gentleman for the remainder of their lives, in one of the three homes, either at London, New York or Cincinnati. For half a million a bed will be endowed in an hospital and for 100,000 a home will be found for some orphan for one year.

Now as most of us know this article, which appeared in the World is to some extent overdrawn, but in the main it is only too true. That there is a dealer in Germany who has agents collecting for him all over the world, and that people who are not *philatelist* think that they are doing a good thing by collecting stamps and sending them off to this fraud we also know. We ourselves have had personal experience; for not long since, a couple of young ladies came to us requesting us to give them some stamps as they wanted to obtain 1,000,000 which they were going to send to an agent in New York, who would forward them to Germany, and the dealer who would receive them would pay for an old lady to be admitted into an Old Ladies' Home.

Thus it shows how easily people can be taken in, and if one tries to explain to one of these generous people that the whole thing is a fraud they will scarcely believe you.

Selling stamps from approval sheets appears now to be the general method by which retail dealers supply collectors, for although a good many of them still issue price lists, comparitively few stamps are sold from them in comparison with what are disposed of from approval sheets. Collectors as a rule like to see what condition a stamp is in before making a purchase.

We think this approval business a first class way to buy stamps, but at the same time we are grieved to know that it presents to persons who are not as strictly honest as they should be, a great temptation to appropriate what does not belong to them. In fact there are

very few dealers who have not suffered more or less from having their sheets stolen. Dishonesty is one of the greatest drawbacks to philately, and does more to discourage honest dealers than anything else, and although much has already been done in the rooting out of these frauds, there is plenty more remaining to be done, and we intend if possible to do our share of it. However, the philatelic press cannot do it all; a great deal of it rests with the dealers themselves, who in a great many instances allow the matter to drop, after writing one or two letters to the parties who owe them. Now, if they would continue to press the matter, they would in the end generally get their sheets returned to them or receive the money for them.

We are satisfied that if every one who does not get his stamps returned, would show up the persons who cheat him, there would in a very little while be comparitively few approval sheet frauds.

We have recently seen a copy of Mr. F. J. Stanton's new American Philatelic Directory. It is realy a good one and contains the names and addresses of between 1300 and 1400 collectors and dealers, and is sold at the low figure of 25cts.

We have just refused a large advertisement of one of the big English firms, simply because they wanted us to take payment in unused *genuine* Berge-dorf and some other such stamps. O no, Mr. Big-English Firm we are not so green as all that. Our terms are cash, and what is more, we are not knowingly going to insert any advertisements of dealers selling fraudulent stamps.

A club of five will always be accepted for $1.00.

In the first number of *The Stamp Collector's Figaro* we notice the following:—"According to the *Halifax Philatelist* for February, the publisher of the *Buckeye State Philatelist*, is made out as having defrauded Messrs R. S. Harris & Co. as well as the publishers of the H. P. How is this, friend French?"

Refering to the above we would like to correct a slight misstatement, we suppose unknowingly imputed to us by friend Voûte.

In our February number under the heading of our "Black List" in which the name of E. L. French appears, may be read the following. "R. S. Harris & Co. also hand us the following list, *some* of whom have defrauded us as well as R. S. H. & Co." Now, some of the parties whose names are given in that list have defrauded us, as well as numerous other dealers, but as to Mr. E. L. French we have never had any dealings with him. R. S. Harris & Co. handed us his name as having defrauded them, and as R. S. Harris & Co. have always had the name of being straight forward, we do not think that they would publish the name of a person who never was indebted to them. Friend Harris let us hear from you.

Parties residing in the U. S. will please remit their subscription in unused U. S. stamps, not in coin, as there is a discount of 20% on American silver in Canada.

All subscriptions begin with current number.

More notice is being taken of our science now than ever before ; nearly every week an article relating to Stamp Collecting appears in some of the leading papers. There is nothing that will give it such a high standard, as to let the great mass of nonphilatelists know that it is something more than mere child's play.

Mr. A. Dunning, San Fernando, Cal., sends us a list of prices paid for used U. S. stamps, revenue, locals, and others. His prices are very fair, and parties having large quantities on hand would do well to send them to him.

To all who subscribe now, as well as to all who have already done so, we will give any one of the following splendid stamp premiums :—

a. One set of four Newfoundland stamps.

b. Two varieties Philippine Island stamps.

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This offer will only remain open for a very short time, so now is the time to subscribe if you want one of the above, also please mention which premium you want when sending in your subscription. Nothing less than 200 new subscribers will do us for this month.

Publishers of philatelic papers will please send us two copies of their papers, a favor which we will be glad to reciprocate.

The secretaries of the different philatelic societies would confer a favor on us if they would occasionally send us a report of the proceedings that take place at some of their meetings, also any other late philatelic news.

It is astonishing of what a large amount the different governments are cheated out of by unprincipled people using stamps a second time, especially in the United States and Canada.

A great many of the smaller post offices obliterate the stamps very lightly and it then becomes no very difficult matter to clean them.

There has been quite a number of systems proposed for destroying the stamps, but as yet no one has invented a system that can be found to work successfully. Some of the plans suggested are very good, but are not considered by the postal authorities as in any way superior to the one in present use. One of the ways proposed is to have only one half of the stamp gummed and then for the clerks at the post offices to tear off the ungummed portion. This would no doubt effectually destroy the stamp, but would hardly be practicable where there was much posting. Another idea is to have sharp knives protruding minutely from the obliterates, which would cut the stamp in two, but as this would also cut the envelope it would hardly suit. For the same reason an acid to be mixed with the ink is objectionable, but we think this last idea about the best and have no doubt that with a little experimenting upon it could be made perfect.

One thing is plain to be seen and that is that if the powers that be, could get some method whereby they could prevent

stamps from being used a second time, even if they had to pay a pretty large price for it, they would in the long run save themselves a vast amount of money.

A difference of paper may be noticed in the 15 cent Canada of the present issue, from that used in the rest of the set.

We have just received a new price list of Messrs. G. H. Fabian & Co., 106 Eighth St., New York. They have a large assortment and their prices are moderate.

We call the attention of retail dealers to our wholesale bargains which appears on the last page. Our stock is limited, so first come first served.

The Canada 2 cent register, *brown*, has been clearly proved to be an error. About three years ago a limited number of sheets were printed in the brown color by mistake and instead of destroying them they were sent off to outlying post offices in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, where hardly a dozen registered letters would be mailed in the whole three years. We have the letter from the postmaster from which the few we have were obtained, in which he states that the brown stamps were received by him from Ottawa in that condition and he had sold about 20 to parties registering letters.

We have had several letters lately from parties in the U. S. stating that they considered Mr. Hechler's article on watermarks one of the most instructive that has appeared in any philatelic journal for some time.

The A. P. A. seems to be in a flourishing condition and is conferring great benefits on both dealers and collectors in showing up frauds.

Exchanges.

The March number of the *Curiosity World* is at hand. It contains numerous advertisements and a lot of good reading matter. 2800 copies of the April number will be mailed.

Another new paper comes to us from Chicago. The *Stamp Collector's Figaro.* It has 16 pages including cover, and is well gotten up. On the cover is a cut of the 1d. and 1 shilling Nova Scotia stamps. Chicago seems to be going ahead in the matter of philatelic publications lately.

No. 2 of the *International* Philatelic Advertiser is a first class journal. It reflects great credit on Messrs. Kreb's Bros.

The Philatelic Tribune for February is before us. Mr. Stanton is evidently making money out of the publishing business, as next month he enlarges. We greatly admire the pushing style in which friend Stanton runs the *Tribune.*

The first number of Vol. II. of *The Stamp* is if anything better than any of its predecessors. It kind of sits rather heavily on the *Texas Philatelist*, and as we have not yet received a late number of that journal, perhaps it is squashed out of existance. One good feature of *The Stamp* is it is always the first in the field.

The February number of the *Keystone State Philatelist* reached us a little late,

although it is none the worse for that, its style is very good, and its reading matter above the average.

The first number of Mr. Findlay's new paper *The Useful Instructor*, is out. It is a great credit to Mr. F. and to Halifax. 10,000 copies have been printed and will be mailed as soon as his paper is entered at Ottawa.

Other philatelic publications received. *The Philatelic Science*, Vol. I, No. 1. *Old Curiosity Shop*, Vol. I, No. 8. *The Germantown Philatelist*, Vol. I, No. 1. *The Texas Stamp*, Vol. I, No. 3. *The Peerless Review*, Vol. I, No. 1. *The Witch City Collector*, Vol. I, Nos. 1 & 2. *The Review*, Vol. I, No. 1. *The Collector's Review*, Vol. I, Nos. 4 & 5, *The Texas Stamp*, Vol. I, No. 2. *The Western Philatelist*, Vol. I. No. 3. *The Bay State Collector*, Vol. I, No. 1.

ODD NOTES.

Nova Scotia and New Brunswick stamps are daily becoming rarer. Secure them while you can.

Who's going to start a Philatelic Society here? It's now four months since we broached the subject.

Mr. S. B. Bradt is going to give all his time to the stamp business. We wish him every success.

Parties wanting bargains should read our advertisement on last page of cover.

An oddity in the shape of a used 3d. unperforate Canada, came into our possession the other day. It is almost black.

The *Stamp World* has ceased to exist. It was a good paper in its day, and had an existance longer than most philatelic journals.

The new set of Newfoundland stamps will make their appearance about June 1st, and will consist of a ½, 1, 2, 3, 5 and 10 cents.

We notice in a contemporary an account of two auction sales which took place at New York on the 7th and 13th ult. The one on the 7th was the property of Rev. A. Hoenecke, and was catalogued by Scott Stamp and Coin Co. The collection numbered nearly 7500 specimens, including 800 duplicates, and brought $1344. The 1s., 1857, of Newfoundland, sold for $30. New Brunswick 1s., $17.25.

The collection sold on the 13th was a duplicate collection of Mr. J. M Chute and was catalogued by the same firm. It consisted of 6700 adhesives and envelopes, and realized $1060.

Exchange Notes.

Under this heading we will insert notices of Exchange fr m subscribers only. All notices must be in by 5th of any month to insure insertion in that months issue. The right to reject all exchanges reserved.

English 1 penny local newsbands of W. H. Smith & Co., London, in exchange for coins, or foreign stamped envelopes, cards or newsbands.

D. A. King, Halifax, N. S.

Exchange wanted with advanced collectors for good rare stamps. Send sheet and I will send one in return, also send list of philatelic papers that you may have to exchange, for which stamps or other philatelic papers will be given.

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